

ORIGINAL



0000076530

~~W 03512A-07-0362~~
W 03512A-06-0407
W 03512A-06-0613
W 03512A-07-0019
W 03512A-07-0100

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2007 - 62743

Date: 8/23/2007

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Pamela Last: Mason

Account Name: Pamela Mason

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: n/a

Work:

City: Pine

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85544

is:

Utility Company: Pine Water Co., Inc.

Division: Portal Creek 1, 2 & 3

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Docket Numbers: W-03512A-07-0362 AND W-03512A-06-0407, W-03512A-06-0613, W-03512A-07-0019, W-03512A-07-0100

July 30, 2007

Honorable Judge Nodes and Commissioners,

The communities of Pine and Strawberry need the K2 well agreement to go through and the test well implemented just as soon as possible.

I have attended 95% of the PSWID meetings, paid attention, made notes and most times only 2 or 3 other members of the public were present. The board is working hard and diligently for the good of both communities. up until recently it was perceived that Strawberry did not have a water shortage issue but at no time was it ever suggested that it was Pine against Strawberry.

Unfortunately we have in our midst a group that would prefer to divide and conquer. The PSWID board have come under attack and deliberate misinformation is being circulated by the parties known to you, including the consultant from Gila County.

You will see from the attached documents that I have been paying very close attention to the matters at hand. I respectfully request that you read my letters to the Gila County Supervisors starting in November of last year, and the latest answer I received from one of the Supervisors. I was appalled that Mr. Pugel would again want Gila County to take over PSWID board, that last time in just nine months \$37.6K went to Mr. Jones and \$81K to Mr. Gielege. This was money that was supposed to be used for water exploration. Mr. Pugel does not want us to find any new water the reasons are obvious, it would lessen the importance of Milk Ranch, his dislike for Mr. Hardcastle is palpable, and he and his "associates" want total control of water.

Needless to say this is not just about the "Agreement but about purchasing Pine and Strawberry Water Company, recalling some of the PSWID board and putting in place those that have a vested interest. In other words a "cash cow" for those that would run the Community owned water company. I can hardly wait to have my

RECEIVED
2007 AUG 24 P 4:00
AZ CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED
AUG 24 2007

DOCKETED BY
nr

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

water rates raised with no ACC to oversee or appeal to, to see build out on all developments, to operate with no water restrictions and pay for the infrastructure of the developments to boot! We also don't need a former supervisor who is now on Planning and Zoning to run any Community Water Company!

For the group to advise the less informed that \$300K is a waste of tax payer money given their own track record and hidden agenda is a farce. Oh! and by the way it would cost us \$6.5K per household over 20 years based on the \$12.1 Million proposed a couple of years ago. Today's estimate who knows, and of course those Administration Fees!!! We appreciate the very existence of the ACC and wish to remain under the eye of the experts.

Portal IV is facing a lawsuit whereby a developer is threatening to take title to three future well sites and in addition "high density use of their tract, specifically a 90 condominium project instead of the 10 residential lots they had planned." (www.pccdwid.org) They have few full time residents and are actively seeking additional water sources. I counted 17.1 homes in the Strawberry Hollow Development and they are not all full time residents.

I read the correspondence, Mr. Peterson terminated negotiations. Solitude Trails apparently shut down a well PWC was using, yet we keep hearing how Brookes is not using all of his water available.

I could go down line by line and dispute the arguments put forth by the group, suffice it to say that it would be too long. Rest assured I have done my homework, read the transcripts submitted to the Corporation Commission, researched Gila Supervisor minutes, read blogs and archives from Payson Roundup, Gazette and Patriot, and more than anything ATTENDED PSWID meetings. The majority of people living in Pine and Strawberry are busy getting on with their lives, earning a living or making ends meet and are hoping for more water. Some are just plain confused or afraid to speak out which is understandable.

Water usage in Strawberry per household is higher than in Pine and unfortunately they are now experiencing shortages. It would be advantageous to both Strawberry and Pine for the well to be investigated. The fact is that if successful in finding water in the deep R aquifer, eleven million gallons from the shallow C aquifer won't be used by Pine. Both Communities stand to benefit by finding more water and Strawberry will of course have access. The cost of the K2 development will be paid for by Pine consumers, and fees will fall under the jurisdiction of the ACC.

We all need more water, our property values to increase, and dislike water hauling and the cost involved. However, if we can't stand behind the volunteers in the Community who worked so hard to bring this agreement to the table, then we only have ourselves to blame for the political and financial consequences.

I sincerely urge the Commissioners to read past the "bait and switch" efforts and know that many of us do indeed want the Joint Development Well Agreement to move forward quickly, but are reluctant to step forward fearing intimidation and possible reprisals.

Thank you for your attention.
P. Mason

Originally submitted 07/30/07.
Docket Numbers: W-03512A-06-0407, W-03512A-06-0613, W-03512A-07-0019, W-035 12A-07-0100 AND W-03512A-07-0362
Reply from Gila County Supervisor to my email of 06/24/07.
From : Dawson, Shirley <[REDACTED]>
Sent : Monday, June 25, 2007 8:37 AM
To : "Pam Mason" <[REDACTED]>
CC "Besich, Steve" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: HARRY JONES

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

generated and Harry Jones is one of the people involved in spreading such issues.

During the meeting one of the more outspoken people and ill informed, would go over to Mr. Jones and talk to him while the board was speaking. Whilst I acknowledge that Mr. Jones is entitled to his opinion and friendships with Mr. Ray Pugel and Co. it would seem that we the Tax Payers of Gila County should not be paying him for that privilege, particularly in public meetings. One can also look at it that he is ensuring his own job security and more billing hours to submit to Gila County.

I am concerned that as he is a paid consultant to Gila County that many may presume that he is the official voice of Gila County and therefore the distortions of facts are 100% true. If indeed Gila County has authorized Harry Jones in his capacity of a paid consultant, to oppose any such agreements and efforts by the PSWID board to find additional water, then they need to publicly say so and advise that Mr. Jones is the voice of Gila County. Mr. Pugel said in the past that Mr. Ron Christensen has already agreed to run any locally owned water district, so I wonder what his role is in this, given the fact that he appointed Harry Jones in the first place. Maybe Mr. Jones is being groomed as his assistant? Star Valley had good reason to mistrust Mr. Jones and his agenda.

During the upcoming Pugel/Pine Water Company hearings at the ACC is Gila County charging Harry Jones to make an official statement on behalf of residents of Gila County! Pine and Strawberry? Will our opinions be sought before any such presentation or does the power, money and influence of the developers have precedence. One cannot help wonder why in November of 2006 Mr. Pugel wanted Gila County Board of Supervisors to take over the PSWID board? Could it be that discussions were likely to take place with Pine Water Company and it looked like maybe some new water could be found? This would have made the well site developed by Pugel/Randall of less importance. Of course he will say that he only has the well being of the Community at heart.

posing the recent agreement with Pine Water Company. Persons behind such a drive are the same as those behind the failed petition initiative. Naturally the public are entitled to express an opinion and I ask you to examine all of the facts, and persons involved both in front and behind the scenes, before you jump to conclusions.

I would appreciate an answer regarding the review time of the contract with Mr. Harry Jones-HDJ Consulting, his status as Gila County Spokesperson and as to how much he is costing us the Tax Payers.

I thank you for your time,

Sincerely,
Pamela Mason

Pine 85544-07 17

Originally submitted 07/30/07

Docket Numbers: W-03 51 2A-06-0407, W-03 51 2A-06-06 13, W-03 51 2A-07-00 19, W-03 51 2A-07-0 100
AND W-03 51 2A-07-0362

Text of my email sent to Gila County Board of Supervisors on Nov 12, 2006 concerning letter submitted to Gila County by Mr. Ray Pugel, requesting that Gila County take back control of Pine/Strawberry Water Improvement District (PSWID)

Whilst reading the agenda for your meeting scheduled Tuesday Nov. 14" I notice that the board will be discussing PSWTD and a letter submitted by Mr. Ray Pugel. Please be advised that I have attended a lot of the PSWID meetings and am of the impression that PSWID are truly working hard at finding additional water supplies and that they have the interests of the whole community at heart.

On the rare occasion that Mr. Pugel did attend a meeting he made it obvious that he dislikes Brookes Utilities

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Ms. Mason,

Thank you for your comments. As you may be aware, I am the only Supervisor who has opposed Mr. Jones' consultant work for Gila County. As you can see from the address on this e-mail, I am forwarding your comments to Mr. Besich, County Manager.

There have been numerous times when the impression was mistakenly given that Mr. Jones was representing the Gila County Board of Supervisors. He has NEVER been officially given that power. I join in your objections to his continued work for "some" of the taxpayers and being paid by ALL of the taxpayers.

Shirley L. Dawson
Supervisor, District III

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Globe, Arizona 85501
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Originally submitted 07/30/07

Docket Numbers: W-035 1 2A-06-0407, W-03 51 2A-06-06 13, W-035 1 2A-07-00 19, W-035 1 2A-07-0 100
AND W-035 1 2A-07-0362

Copy of my letter sent to Gila County Supervisors.

Sent to: [REDACTED] SLDawson@co.gila.az.us 7/30/07

Dear Supervisors,

I respectfully request that you read and follow up with my concerns.

My question is if and when will the current contract with Mr. Harry Jones of HDJ Consulting come up for review? I have some objections to his paid presence at PSWID meetings. You will see that he is General Manager of the Pine Creek Canyon Domestic Water Improvement District (a position previously held by Mike Ploughe) reference website pccdwid.org and is charged with finding, evaluating and negotiating for more water for that community. For your clarification, community is known as Portal IV. Several of the same sites i.e. Strawberry Hollow and Jim Hill well have been topics for discussion amongst the PSWID board members. I am not well rounded in County protocol but would imagine this to be a conflict of interest somewhere along the line. See below.

Mr. Jones does indeed attend the PSWID meetings, but often appears to have his own side bar conversations going on. Prior to the recent announcement of the agreement between PSWID and Pine Water company, the meetings were ill attended, sometimes maybe 2 or 3 members of the public. During that time Mr. Jones would not involve himself directly with comments, or answer questions to the board unless pushed.

Just recently after the ACC Town Hall meeting held in Pine, I overheard him telling some people from Strawberry, that the agreement between Pine Water Co. and PSWID was a waste of taxpayers money. Given the fact that he was paid \$37.6K out of PSWID monies under the direction of Ron Christensen back in 2004, this was hard to swallow. He is currently paid some \$45.00 plus per hour right now and brings nothing but dissent to the meetings.

Let me clarify my last statement please. During the last PSWID meeting he was the "go to guy" for some members of the Community that have just woken up to the fact that an agreement has been reached between Pine Water Co. and PSWID. As in any dealings with the public I am sure you have seen people who attend one meeting, and are suddenly experts in the field. A lot of misinformation and rumors are unfortunately being

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

intensely and is against any discussions and co operative agreements that may occur between PSWID and Brooke Utilities.

I well remember how the general people of the Community felt last time when Mr. Pugel and a lot of the other developers /realtors tried to force their agenda of buying Pine Water Company (which was not for sale) and the mass mailings and petition drive they funded. A group of regular citizens had to fight this attempt to rail road through the \$12.1 Million bond idea supported by Ron Christensen, Ray Pugel, Loren Peterson (Strawberry Hollow) and others. John Nelson and Harry Jones were also on board with this plan. As regular people with no special interests or business affiliations we had to fund opposing mailings and organize meetings ourselves.

I happened upon a meeting in the Kiwanis room prior to the petition efforts, this meeting was staged by Ray Pugel with Ron Christensen in attendance. At the time he was Supervisor of District 1 and Ron Christensen assured those present, mainly realtors or those of special business interests that "he would make it happen" i.e. the community purchasing Pine Water Company. You will not have been told that applications were indeed submitted to replace members of the 2003 PSWJD board, as several resigned because they were moving or had health issues. The chair at the time who was only on the board for a few months said that the applicants were "not qualified" no formal qualifications are needed and I would point out that the then chair worked for Ray Pugel and still does. Hence responsibility for PSWID was assumed by Ron Christensen/Gila County Supervisors.

On September 12th 2003 District 1 Supervisor said "The district will be kept intact and operating in the manner it was intended, we want the involvement of the Pine-Strawberry people. It's their district. What they want is important to the decision-making process." I am afraid this did not happen and during a nine month period \$219,385.24 of the PSWID budget was spent. Some \$3 7.6K went to HDJ Consulting (Harry Jones) and \$81K to John Gilege tasked with intervention at the ACC. John Gilege also represents Strawberry Hollow. The general public were neither notified or kept informed as to what was going on. It was extremely difficult to get any information or accounting whatsoever from John Nelson. Cell phone bills were paid for Gila personnel but the PSWID post office box and neither the web site were maintained. I could not even read the minutes to find out what was going on.

I would respectfully point out that the Arizona Corporation Commission are the professionals when it comes to investigating requests for rate increases and at least the public at large should have been allowed to have discussions with Gila County Supervisors, as to how their taxes were to be spent. Indeed leaflets written by Ray Pugel's group were headed PSWID which as you can imagine were particularly misleading.

So here we are again with special interests trying to divert the goal of the PSWID board to work on finding a sustainable water supply. To work with Brookes Utilities and invest \$300K is a drop in the bucket compared to the millions suggested by Mr. Pugel and Co. The \$3 00K is already funded (in the kitty) and stands a good chance of being repaid. Oh yes by a rate increase but surely a better proposition than paying millions right now. I can honestly say that the "intent to work together for the better of the Community" exhibited by PSWID/Brookes is real in my opinion.

I have asked at previous PSWID meetings if the Chair has talked to TommieMartin and if she plans on attending any of the PSWID meetings. I was advised that unfortunately she has other commitments for those Thursdays. I would point out that the minutes of the meetings are available at pswid.org along with reports and you can see for yourselves that despite some ups and downs the board are working extremely hard for the property owners. So I have gone out on a limb by writing this letter and would point out that I was a member of CAWS in 2003 (Citizens for an Adequate Water Supply) in opposition to the group formed by Ray Pugel/Peterson i.e. POWRS. CAWS no longer exists at this time and again I am just a retiree with no financial ties to any organization and I just want to be able to afford to continue to live in Pine peacefully.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Pamela Mason

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

8/23/07

Called customer and left message with man advising opinion received through Fennemore Craig and has been docketed.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 8/23/2007

Opinion No. 2007 - 62743
